Eaton
3

Mar. 24 1911

To-day is the first day of spring according to weather. The glass was 8 in morning, increasing to 9 at noon, & holding about there till sunset. There was no wind; a storm had passed just north, and we were more in its "sphere of influence" it being cloudy till in the P.M. when it cleared up. First two robins made their appearance known, but as they have shown up every warm spell thro the winter they can hardly be called migrants.

Next I heard a bluebird. They were seen once in Feb. and I think I heard one 3 days ago, but there was no mistaking this fellow. At noon there were two here, and when I went out with the glass about 3, I saw 8.

I noticed what appeared to be a ground sparrow. As it flew leisurely into the woods he followed on foot to investigate & saw no more of it.

On my trip in the P.M. I saw about 6. They were [illegible]

flowed ground near a group of willows, for where, on a slight provocation they would scamper and hide. I heard one singing a sweet undertone, half warble, half song, about as the tree sparrow, Spizella monticola, sings in the warm days of winter.

From this, I conjecture the tree sparrow has a different song in summer.

One hardly doubts Fisher's conclusions, in his Hawks & Owls, that sparrows are often taken by mouse-eating hawks because they resemble mice. The illusion is very striking to a person watching them run among grass or on ground. They have a habit of throwing themselves into a tucked, not on the near side, but going always around a low tree, a bush, a limb or other convenient place to alight, as tho' afraid of pursuit, even when not flushed.

Saw 2 crow blackbirds, 2 juncos juncula. They appeared to be in pressing business, so did not stop to get acquainted.

The tree sparrows I have been feeding have not shown up for 3 days, and perhaps have gone away. One or two juncos have been with them, and today they are hobnobbing with the song sparrows. They may be "snow birds" farther south, but I believe are hardy enough to brave our winter. They come in the later bird flights, in about 2 weeks.

Nov 23.

18° above, but the birds have come to stay. The bluebirds & sparrows are singing, the latter in a little low tone, & occasionally gets in almost his characteristic song, but rather strained & stuffed.

The blackbirds are squeaking like a wheelbarrow on the sand

There were six drive to the sun this morning, & someone who was there. This one gave me a revelation in blackbird position. He came to a tree 4 yds or so away & as blackbirds do, behind a limb, but after scanning me he got confidence & came out to a clear space & I studied him with the glass. I could even see his white eye. He took a beautiful position facing me, his body crouched, wings closed but a wide spread, & the legs bent till the feet almost touched the body. Shall have to try this position in mounting.

Glass reached about 50 at noon & fell to 18 at sunset, wind N.E., cloudy & threatens snow. Just now spits a little

Jan. 24 – Clas. at 13 Thermometer
to a thin snow covers the ground, like
a frost. The sparrows are cheerily sing-
ing in the mordilla, in an undertone
as before, as if trying their pipes for
the burst of melody that will greet
us the first warm day. The blue
birds are quiet.

Jan. 25. Clas. at 20. Rising to 52 at noon.
In morning spectrous snowflakes
[illegible] seemed to think
had no contract to furnish music
at such weather, so was quiet till
in the P.M.

By the way, blackbirds are more
plentiful than last year, and
the swallows unlike. Perhaps they
have undergone their periodic
scourge, common to small
other summer birds, that
reduce the race by killing off
all but the most robust. The
Rev. [illegible] from Stockton
by deliverance

Nature treats by heroic measures and are not her ways exactly alike

Mar 26. Wind S.W. for last 36 hours, morning hazy, clouds clearing at 8, glass at 36 in. am.

And the day for migrants. Observed finished Chorus & went out with glass. Bluebirds, song & sparrows active. Not robins nor yet begun to sing.

I had caught sounds of returning Agelaius Phoeniceus, and went to see if I could find them. They saved me the trouble, I came on my head, 20 of them, all ♂. This is the place that flocks by sexes, and the males arrive a week or so first as if to look over the territory & find the best feeding places for the females. Quite a few of them

look, perched in some naked oak or elm, looking out over the snow-patched brown fields, dreaming, if birds can dream, of the bright days soon to come.

Several of our birds come in pairs, the robin generally brings his mate, and so does the bluebird. Earlier, the male brings her, for he is her slave from the first, following her wherever she goes, & trying to walk through fire & water to please her. He is rewarded by numerous proofs of her affection, accompanied even by his doleful ashmountain cheerup, and hardly less doleful song.

Yes, madam blackbird is the woman suffragist of her race, and is very autocratic in her sway; but the sun will soon melt her resistance, and then will come a conjugal felicity seldom attained by this scheming sex.

If woman's rights mean anything, such a beautiful condition is my only plea.

There is master Phoenicus in the top of an oak, trilling out his Quonka-ree-ee-ee in jubilee in anticipation of the joys so near at hand. How clear his notes are, easily heard ¼ mile, and what a contrast with his western brothers & cousins bid & tricolored. They, in common with all the race of songsters get a frog in their throats, and their notes are low, harsh & unmusical. They are troubled with chronic catarrh. The forsperlee of the Valley of California don't know what a song bird is, as we know him. Their songs are from the burrowing owl, Ha-häää but quite pleasant, and the meadow lark. Yes, the meadolark, the embodiment of all songsters in one. How often have I looked for a sight at hearing his note; How often laughed to see their band-master mount a fence rail, & sing out to a boy with a gun, scoot you rascal, don't kill me, when the theme is taken up by 3 or 4 others, scheated in the sun

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Allen

Mar. 7 Under [illegible]

at 8.30

Sunday, 19

Monday

Tuesday, 20, wed.

Richard.

[illegible] morning, [illegible]

Glass. 13 3[illegible]

25. [illegible] 12. [illegible]

[illegible]

9[illegible]

126. Glass 19. [illegible]

[illegible]

40. [illegible] .. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

29. Eaves swallow.
V 30 Glass Sb.

Gray: Glass 93 Bno [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible] at night. [illegible]
day. Nevertheless st[illegible]
[illegible] seemed
[illegible]

May 3. Wind N. E. cloudy, [illegible]
[illegible], blowing [illegible]
clearing. Frost not much
above 60°, and at 8 P. M. 44°, and
threatens frost, as wind has
gone. Whippoorwill
[illegible]

May 4. [illegible]

Indiana

Silver birch
Scandinavian
Larch
V. Bicuspidata
Amerovulga
[illegible]
[illegible] Sabina
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Beech

1842

18

Black & Chestnut out

30.

31

Locust

K
Carin

Sa
S
Pr
De
Sp
Ate

Plant list, 90.

Pap. grandi.	Apr.	17
Mayflowers	"	"
Alnus incana (Juttrigan)	"	19
" Entlef	"	"
Salix rostrata	"	"
Chrysosplenium aureum	"	"
Equisetum arvense	"	"

Iron plummet.

Notes: Shellheap indefinite extent, probably 3 x 1½ & 1-2½ ft deep. Pine stump 18 in in situ in sit, tree been cut about 20 years. Plummet near bottom of heap where 1 ft. deep, directly under a root of stump 3 in dia, with various pieces of bone, one sharpened